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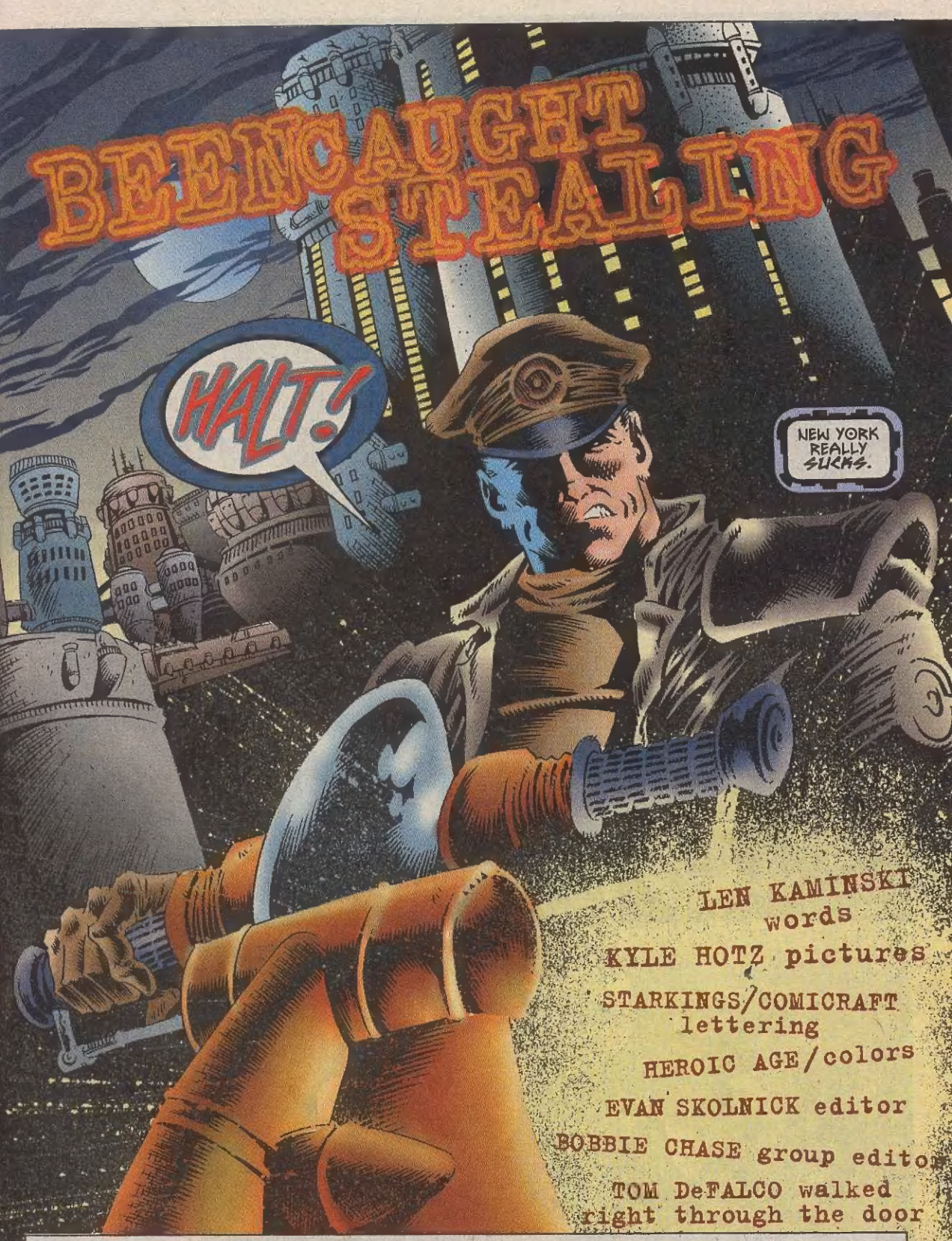

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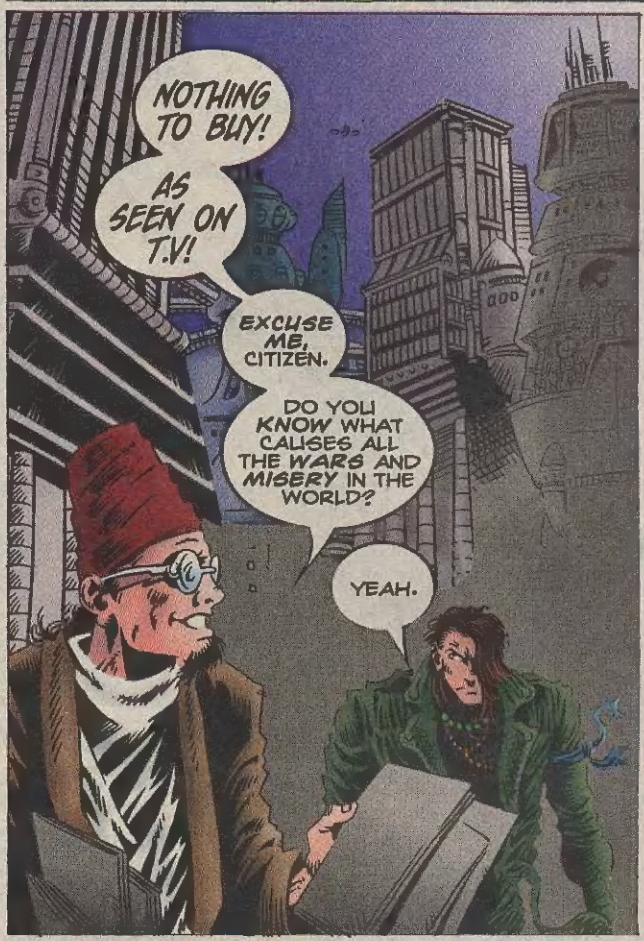
Scanned By GOTHMAN
For The HaCsA Halloween Flood 2002

WHAT, MAN?
OPERATING A WHEELED VEHICLE IS AGAINST THE LAW HERE, SIR.
I'M IN TOWN MAYBE TWENTY MINUTES, AND THE NATIVES'RE ALREADY HASSLIN' ME.
LICENSE AND I.D. CODE. PLEASE.
OFFICIOUS CREEP. "PLEASE" THIS AND "SIR" THAT, AS IF HE'S SOME KINDA PUBLIC SERVANT. 'STEAD OF AN APE WITH A PLASTIC BADGE.
'LEAST BACK IN TRANSVERSE CITY, THE SECHRICOPS ARE UP FRONT ABOUT BEING FASCIST PUSBAGS.
Huh.
LEFT 'EM IN MY OTHER SUIT.
THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. YOU ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO --
SHOCK YOU, JACK.
FAILURE TO OBSERVE LOCAL MAG-LEV REGULATIONS, RESISTING IDENTI-CHECK BY AUTHORIZED OFFICER, AND PUBLIC USE OF PROFANITY.
THAT'S IT. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, PUNK.
NAH.

I DON'T THINK SO.
SKAAW
WHOA!
WHOA!
LATERAL STABILIZER'S --
RRRRUMBLE
DID YOU SEE -
WHAT HAPP -
ACCIDENT
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SCREW AROUND.
AND NEITHER DOES KYLIE.
GOT LESS THAN 36 HOURS TO GET BACK TO TRANSVERSE CITY WITH SOME 2-4-5 TRIOXIDICLORIZIDE--
-- OR SHE'S DEADWARE.
BETTER LEAVE THE BIKE WHERE IT WON'T GET ME NOTICED -- GO THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT.

MAN, HOW CAN ANYBODY STAND IT HERE?
ALL SO SHINY AND SQUEAKY-CLEAN.
MYLAR STREETS FULL OF UPSCALE SUITS AND THEIR FAKE SMILES BOUGHT ON CREDIT.
MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL.

THE SON OF ODIN SAVES THOSE WHO BELIEVE!
OH, YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...


NOTHING TO BUY!
AS SEEN ON T.V!
EXCUSE ME, CITIZEN.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT CAUSES ALL THE WARS AND MISERY IN THE WORLD?
YEAH.

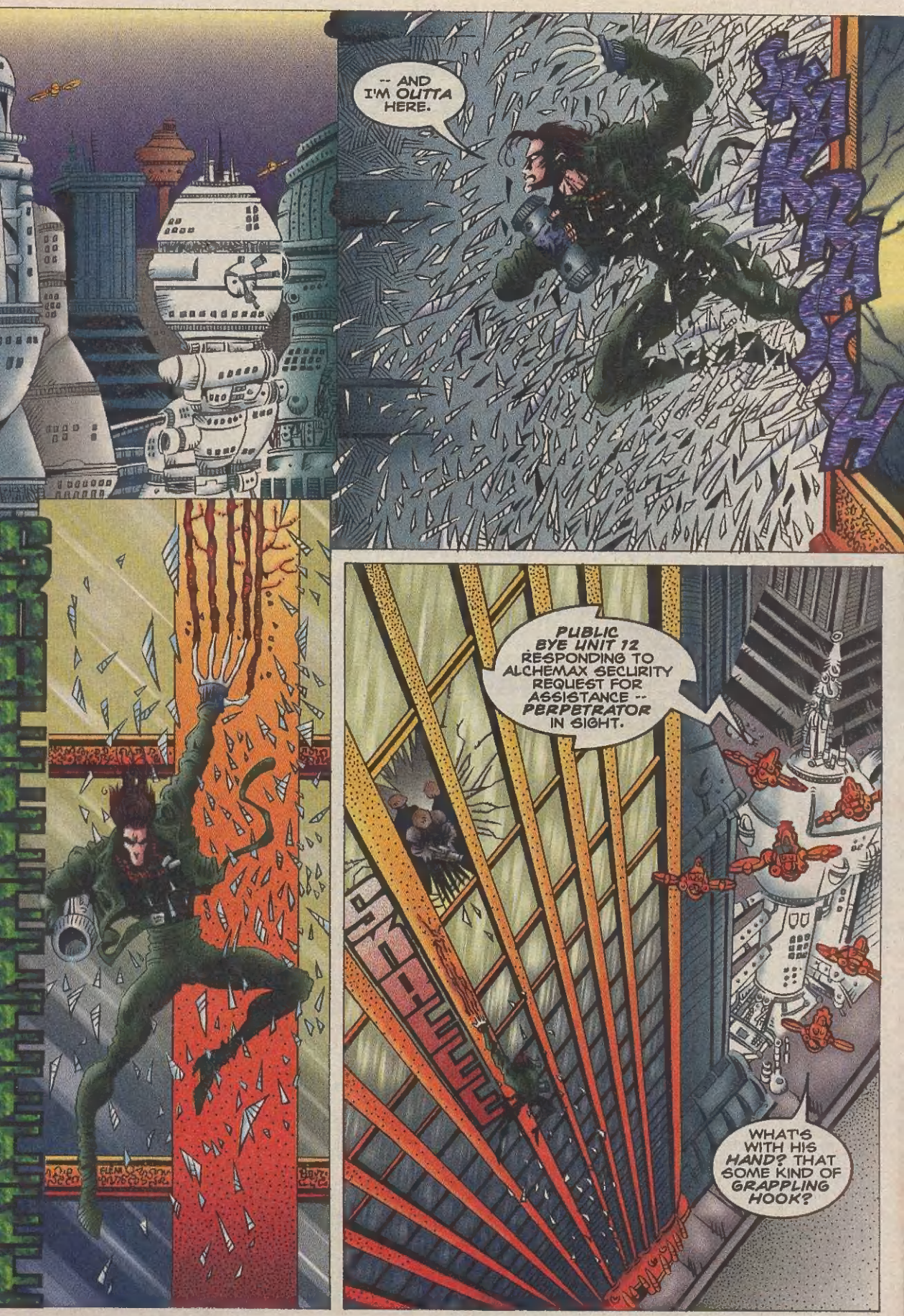
BITHEADS LIKE YOU.

THORITES.
UN-SHOCKIN'-BELIEVABLE.
BUT...
ONE THING I CAN SAY FOR ALCHEMAX --
-- THEY MAKE THEMSELVES EASY TO FIND.
PLACE IS PROBABLY LOCKED UP TIGHTER THAN THE ONO-SENDAI SOURCE CODE --
-- BUT THAT MEANS JACK AGAINST MY CLOAKING DEVICE.
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE
AUTHORIZED TECHNICIANS ONLY
NICE MAINFRAME.
BET THEY GOT SECURITY ICE A MILE THICK IN CYBERSPACE.

TAKE HOURS TO HACK FROM OUTSIDE.
BUT FROM IN HERE --
SNXT
CHX
-- NOT EVEN INTERESTING.
KLP
CLITCH
SHRK
GO TO SHIPPING AND RECEIVING FILES.
FIND OUT WHERE THEY KEEP THE 2-4-5 TRIOXIDI-CLORIZIDE.
YEAH, THERE IT IS.
GENETICS LAB.
STAFF PRESENTLY LOGGED IN: O'HARA, MIGUEL...
Mm?
WHO'S THERE?

WHOK
I'D ALMOST FEEL BAD CLOCKIN' HIM LIKE THAT —
-- IF HE WASN'T JUST ANOTHER BLOODSHCKING BIZ SUIT, HELPING A-MAX COOK UP A NEW AND IMPROVED CANCER FLU OR SOMETHING.
NNGHK
BIP
RESTRICTED ACCESS STORAGE
ENTER SECURICODE
Ahh, BYTE ME.
CHAAK
JUUHHH
WHAT TH--?
Oh, GREAT. JUST WHAT I NEED.
THINK I'LL LET SECURITY HANDLE THIS...
BIP

ALCHEMAX SECURITY CONTROL...
INTRUDER ALERT -- GENETICS LAB!
MEANWHILE...
ACES.
NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS GET THIS STUFF BACK TO SYNERGY, GET HIM TO COOK IT INTO NOOTROPINE, AND KYLIE'LL BE --
FREEZE!
WE'VE GOT THIS WHOLE FLOOR SEALED OFF -- YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK.
I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR --


-- AND I'M OUTTA HERE.
PUBLIC BYE UNIT 12 RESPONDING TO ALCHEMAX SECURITY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE -- PERPETRATOR IN SIGHT.
WHAT'S WITH HIS HAND? THAT SOME KIND OF GRAPPLING HOOK?

KHHHM KHOOM KHOOM KHOOM
LOOK OUT, HE'S --
MOVE OVER.
NNUG
AAGHK
HHNG
UNIT 12 ■ PURSUIT OF PERPETRATOR ON STOLEN P■ VEHICLE, MOVING TO ■■■■.
PERPETRATOR HEADING DOWNTOWN.
SON OF A GLITCH...

DOWNTOWN'S GONNA HAVE ONE HECK OF A MESS TO CLEAN UP...
THAT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM. HOW HE GOT IN HERE IS.
I WANT A FULL SWEEP OF THE BUILDING, AND A LEVEL ONE DIAGNOSTIC OF SECURITY SYSTEMS.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISTER O'HARA?
I'LL LIVE.
THINK I'LL TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF, THOUGH.
AND, ONE STARTLING CHANGE OF CLOTHES LATER...
FAT LOT OF HELP THE PUBLIC BYE'S GONNA BE IF THAT CANISTER BECOMES CRUD DOWNTOWN.
THEY CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO PROTECT PEOPLE WITHOUT FAT PAYOUT ACCOUNTS.
DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT TRICLORIZIDE IS TOXIC EVEN IN SMALL QUANTITIES.
OKAY. PARTICULATE MATTER DETECTOR'LL BE ABLE TO SNIFF OUT TRICLORIZIDE MOLECULES DOWN TO TWO PARTS PER MILLION.
THERE'S ENOUGH IN THAT CAN TO TRIPLE DOWNTOWN'S CARCINOMA RATES.
MAN, I'D LOVE TO GET MY CLAWS ON THE SCUMBAG WHO MADE THIS MESS.
TOO BAD HE'S BUSY WITH HIS NEW CAREER AS A GREASE SPOT ON THE PAVEMENT BY NOW.
IF THAT CANISTER'S RUPTURED, I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING IT.

HEY, LOOKIT WHAT I FOUND...
#.#&%AB.%
LOADING BIOS RAM...
WOO! WHAT IS IT?
DUNNO.
BUT IT'S GOTTA BE WORTH SOMETHIN'.

'S RIGHT.
WORTH YOUR LIFE, BITHEAD.
HUH? BEEN... OFF-LINE?
THOUGHT I HEARD...MY OPERATING SYSTEM ITSELF..?
YAAAHH!
WEIRD.
[illegible] THIS PART OF TOWN I CAN [illegible] WITH.
ALMOST LIKE HOME.
'BOUT TIME I GOT BACK THERE.
LEAST NOBODY DOWN HERE IS [illegible] ENOUGH TO HASSLE ME.
EXCUSE ME --
THWIP

-- BUT I DON'T THINK THAT [illegible] TO YOU.
WHAT THE SHOCK IS *THAT*? SOME KINDA A-MAX *SUPER-NINJA*?
MAN, I *REALLY* HATE *NEW YORK*.
TARGET LOCK
WHOOPS.
WAITAMINUTE! THAT'S MY *MYSTERY BURGLAR*.
JAMMIT!
WHAT'S HE DOING BEING *NOT DEAD*?!
GIVE ME THAT!

KEEP IT SEALED UP FOR THE TIME BEING.
Mnmm. I MIGHT --
-- IF YOU ASK NICELY --
-- AND TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT IT FOR.
OH, AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE NOT PRESENTLY DOING A [redacted] IMPERSONATION OF A COUPLE DOZEN KILOS OF [redacted].
YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUGH ENOUGH TO SCREW WITH ME --
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY --
SCHKT
VRRT
ZZZKLAK
-- BUT IT'D BE A [redacted] SHOCKIN' MISTAKE.
KLIX
KLIK
CHAK
Limmmm...
YOU'RE NOT FROM [redacted] HERE...
...ARE YOU?

GLOWING EYES? Uh-oh...
TARGETING
SHOOT
ZZZ
SEE, WHERE I COME FROM --
-- ENFORCERS GOT A REAL SHORT LIFE EXPECTANCY.
BIZ?
YOU THINK I WORK FOR ALCHEMAX !?!

Oh, MAN --
-- HAVE YOU GOT THE WRONG GUY FOR THAT.
I'M --
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
Y'KNOW...
THR
KO
...I REALLY DON'T THINK I LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE.

SKRUNCH
YEAH?
GET IN LINE.
THRAAM
TOO MANY [illegible] TO DODGE AT ONCE --
HJUNGHK
TWITCH AND YOU'RE BACON.
HE'S GOING FOR THE CANISTER. GOTTA --
OH, SHOCK -- BEHIND HIM --

"-- THE BUILDING'S COMING DOWN!"
AAAHH!
THRU...MBLL
SQUATTERS INSIDE...
...NOT MUCH OF A CHOICE...
C'MON!
SHRAKA THOOM
MOVE!
WHERE'S --

BULLPEN BULLETINS

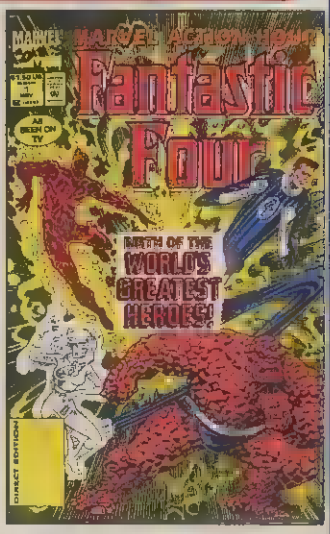
ProFile: LARRY MAHLSTEDT

A 14-year comics veteran, **Larry** has landed the plum assignment of inking THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN beginning this month. Larry started out at DC in 1980, winning acclaim for his work on Legion of Super-Heroes. He made the jump to Marvel a few years ago, inking NEW WARRIORS, first over Mark Bagley, then over Darick Robertson. Now Larry has taken on new power and responsibility, as he follows Mark Bagley into Spidey's web!

Where and when you born?
In Babylon, Long Island, in 1956.
How did you learn how draw?
I was totally self-taught, but one year out of high school, in 1974, I attended the John Buscema comic book workshop in New York. I was one of the thirty students in his first class. He didn't show me how to ink, but he taught me the tools and the techniques of comics.
How did you like John as teacher?
He's a great guy. He's very easy-going. It was his first attempt at teaching, and he did pretty well. He showed us how to draw figures, how to lay down muscle, the dynamics of drawing and perspective, the effective use of black, etc.
Who are some of your artistic influences?
As far as inking, guys like Klaus Janson, Terry Austin, Joe Rubinstein, Dick Giordano ... I look at anybody's stuff and see if there's something in there I can use.
This must be an exciting time to be working on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!
It's going to be awful interesting. There is the potential for a major shake-up. I couldn't have come on the book at a better time, what with the animated series, the big issue #400 coming up, the action figures, the live action movie whenever ...
Do you have a favorite Spider-Man villain?
I always thought the Shocker was kind of cool — there's something about the padded insulation in his costume. Then there's the Scorpion ... and, of course, the Hobgoblin!
What character at Marvel do you want to work on that you haven't?
I want to do Deathlok in the worst way! I hear Darick Robertson is working on a Spider-Man/Deathlok Limited Series — hopefully I'll get to work on that.
Who was your favorite Beatle or Monkee?
My favorite Monkee was Mike Nesmith. He was cool — he had a wry sense of humor. And, of course, the wool hat!
Did you ever wish you had a clone, like Spidey does?
Yeah — many times! I'd put him to work inking!
Do you have any hobbies?
I like to read — I'm big on mystery and horror. I like Robert Parker's Spenser stuff. For horror, I like Robert McCammon. Also, I collect superhero action figures. I have over 100! I'm really looking forward to the new line of Spidey figures — they have some characters I was hoping for, like the Vulture and a new Doc Ock, since the old Doc Ock looked like a wimp!

HYPE BOX

This month, the Fantastic Four premiere (along with Iron Man) in an all-new animated series called the **Marvel Action Hour.** To commemorate the event, we're launching two all-new comic books based on the TV series — one adapting Fantastic Four stories from the new show, one adapting Iron Man stories.



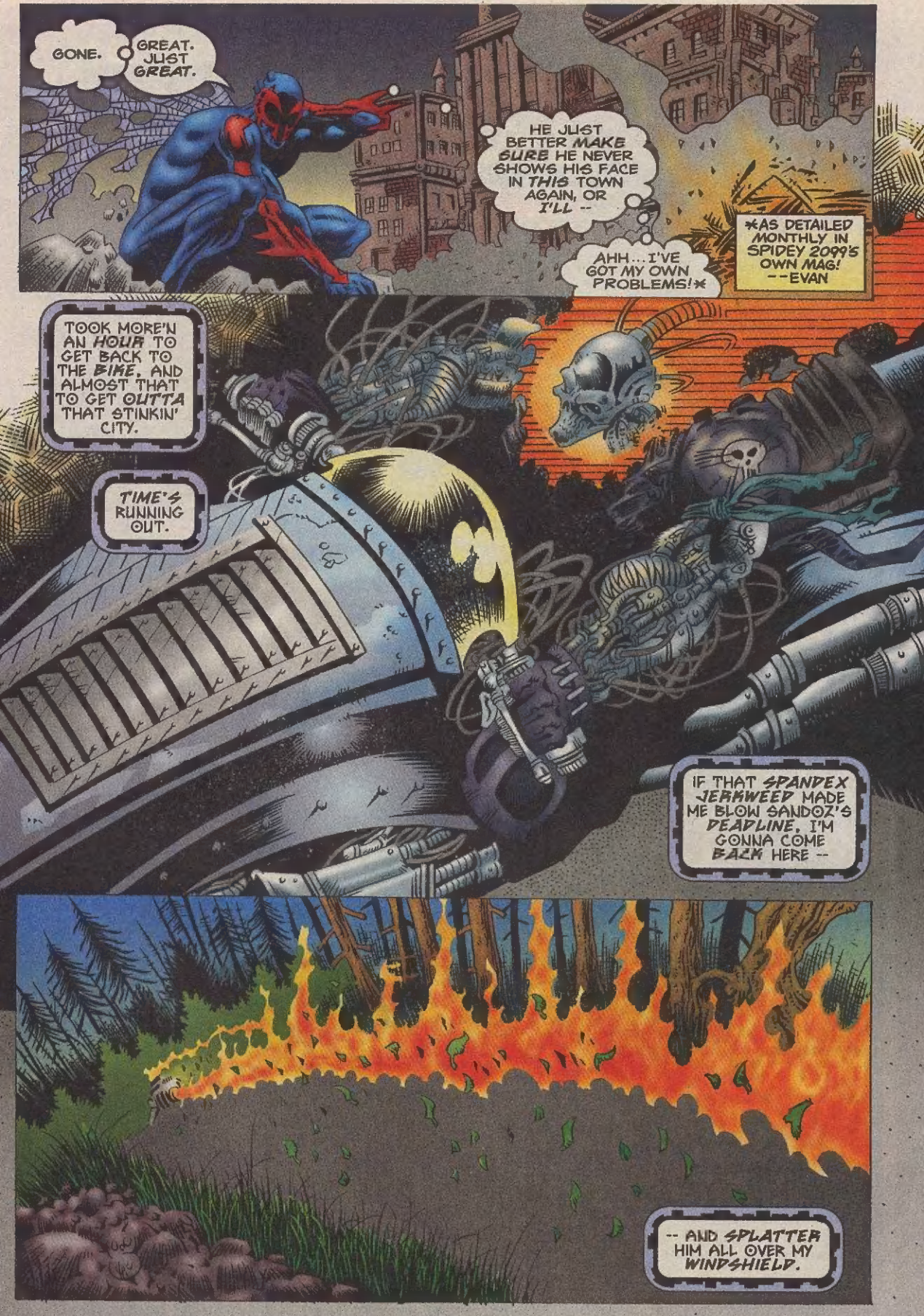
According to editor **Tom Daning,** MARVEL ACTION HOUR: THE FANTASTIC FOUR will take stories straight from the TV show, with the major difference being "we will make it look as much like Marvel Universe comic possible." Accomplishing this transition from TV to comics is writer **Joey Cavalieri** and artist **Quique Alcatena.**

The stories in the new FF TV show will be based on "all the great old Lee/Kirby stories," Tom said. The first issue starts off with the team's origin — "but with a special twist!" Among the heroes and villains who'll be popping up are the Silver Surfer, the Sub-Mariner, and Galactus!

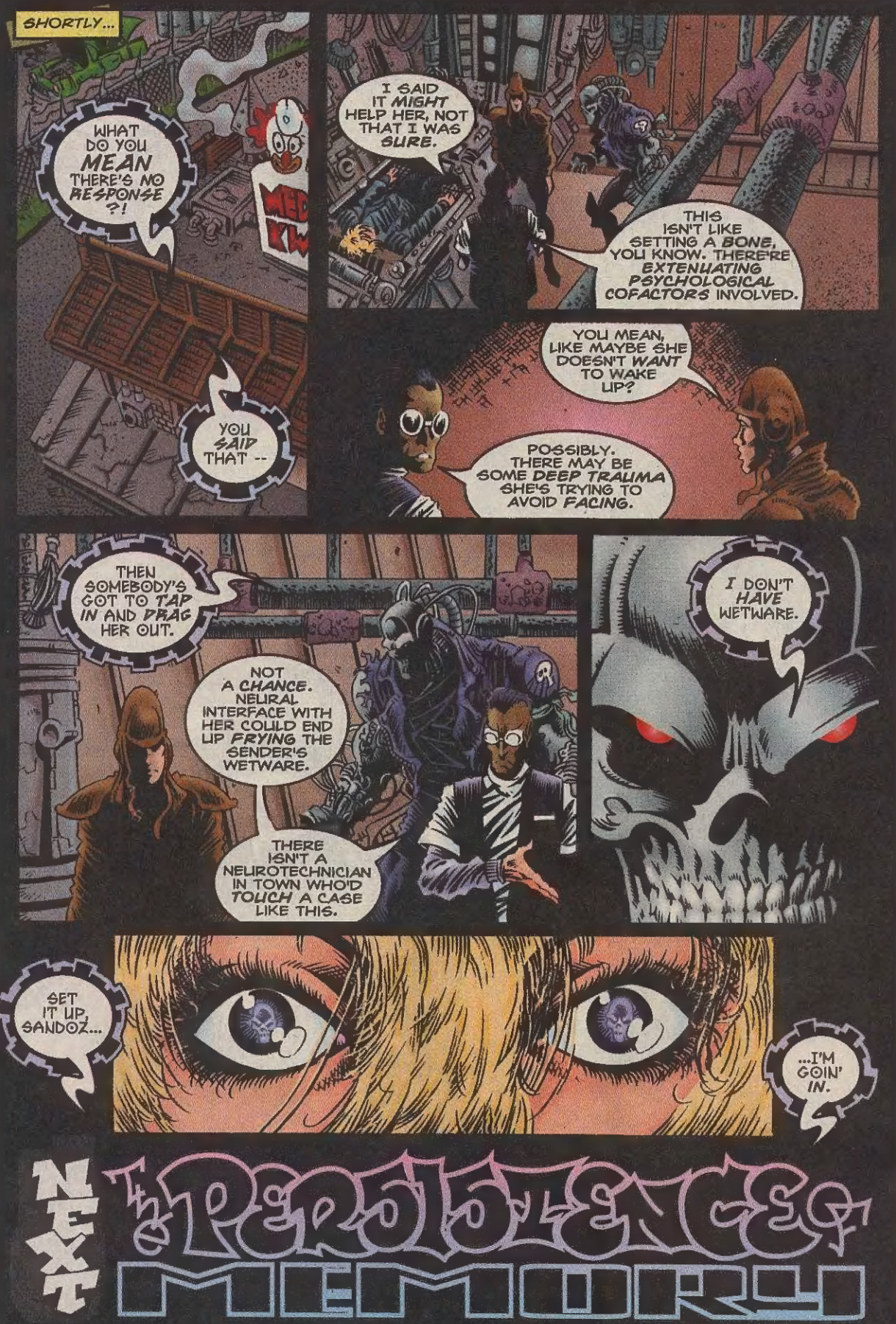
If you want to learn more about the Iron Man segment of Marvel Action Hour, as well as his upcoming toy line, and the "Hands of the Mandarin" crossover, take a look at IRON MAN AND FORCE WORKS COLLECTORS' PREVIEW #1, including the armors even Tony wouldn't build, a chance to win great prizes, and tips on how to become a hot Marvel artist. As a bonus, **Tom Morgan's** specially-commissioned wraparound cover has hot neon special effects.

NOW ON SALE

- **ALICE COOPER: THE LAST TEMPTATION OF 3:** Don't resist the temptation! By Gaiman/Zulli!
- **ALADDIN #2:** An evil ankh ages Aladdin! By Slott/Riguard/Albrecht!
- **#380:** If Hera is here today ... will Hercules be gone tomorrow? By Harras/Johnson/Palmer!
- **DOUBLE FEATURE #2:** Same comic above, plus GIANT-MAN!
- **BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD** Get ready for America's Suckiest Home Videos! By Maxton-Graham/Parker!
- **CLAN DESTINE #2:** The family that kicks butt together, stays together! By Davis/Farmer!
- **CONAN THE ADVENTURER** Meet **Dagor,** the Master of the Dagger! By Thomas/Kayanan!
- **DOCTOR WHO: CLASSIC COMICS #25:** Sorry — no Daleks in this issue!
- **DOOM #23: Tyger Wylde** is back! By Moore/Broderick/Nyberg!
- **EXCALIBUR #83: Gravemoss** gathers around the possessed Nightcrawler! By Ellis/Dodson/Cariani!
- **GHOST #7:** It's Ghost Rider vs. **Spider-Man** — 2099 style! By Kaminski/Hotz!
- **G.I. JOE** Hey! Who let all those **Cobra** agents on this airplane? By Quinones/Stiner/Wallace!
- **INCREDIBLE HULK #423:** He hasn't got a snowball's chance against By David/Frank/Rubinstein!
- **MAN/FORCE COLLECTORS'** Armorific info!
- **JUSTICE: FOUR BALANCE #3 4:** Against a super-villain assembly line! By Nicieza/Brasfield/Turner!
- **MARVEL ACTION HOUR: FANTASTIC FOUR #1:** The *TV origin* of the FF! By Cavalieri/Alcatena!
- **ACTION HOUR: IRON #1:** The **Mandarin** is hungry for a Russian sub! By Fein/Williams/Nyberg!
- All-new cover by Frank
- **MARVEL TALES #291:** Spidey mops up the floor with the **Absorbing Man!** By DeFalco/Frenz/Layton!
- **#27:** Morbius has quit drinking — *blood,* that is! By Truisani/Gilmore!
- **#11:** It's fantastic fun with Nova, **Thing,** and **Ant-Man** vs. **Dr. Doom's** robots! By Marrinan/Stegbauer!
- **PUNISHER** A down-and-out singer turns vigilante! It's #1 with a bullet! By Rainey/Del Rivero!
- **ROCKO'S LIFE #6:** Newlywed parasites honeymoon on Spunky! By Lewandowski/Auck/Fields!
- **SABRETOOTH CLASSICS #7:** Sabretooth wants to massacre By L. Simonson/S. Buscema!
- **SAVAGE SWORD OF** Conan sits on Kull's throne! Plus Red Sonja! By Thomas/J. Buscema!
- **SPIDER-MAN** The Spider-Clone wants vengeance on **Venom!** By Mackie/Lyle/Hanna!
- **SPIDER-MAN MAGAZINE** Classic Spidey sagas of the past! Plus Iron Man!
- **INFINITY #34: Abyss** is down — but not out! By Arcudi/Olliffe!
- **WHAT IF** Nazis have taken over the world! **Captain America** to the rescue! By Dixon/Carrasco Jr./Ozon!
- Wolvie terrorizes a cult of terrorists! By Nocenti/Texeira!
- **X-MEN Gambit** and **Sabretooth** have a score to settle! By Nicieza/Kubert/Ryan!
- **X-MEN 2099 #14:** Loki, the God of future mischief, returns! By Moore/Lim!
- **TPB: THE PHOENIX SAGA:** It's back from the ashes! By Claremont/Byrne/Austin!


GONE.
GREAT. JUST GREAT.
HE JUST BETTER MAKE SURE HE NEVER SHOWS HIS FACE IN THIS TOWN AGAIN, OR I'LL --
AHH... I'VE GOT MY OWN PROBLEMS!*
*AS DETAILED MONTHLY IN SPIDEY 2099'S OWN MAG! --EVAN
TOOK MORE'N AN HOUR TO GET BACK TO THE BIKE, AND ALMOST THAT TO GET OUTTA THAT STINKIN' CITY.
TIME'S RUNNING OUT.
IF THAT SPANDEX JERKWEED MADE ME BLOW SANDOZ'S DEADLINE, I'M GONNA COME BACK HERE --
-- AND SPLATTER HIM ALL OVER MY WINDSHIELD.

ST. VITUS'S DANCETERIA.
I GOT THAT STUFF YOU NEEDED.
Oh, THIS WILL DO NICELY.
I CAN HAVE THE NOOTROPINE PROCESSED FOR YOU IN TWO HOURS.
WHAT'S THE DAMAGE ON THIS GONNA BE?
Oh, THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF 2-4-5 TRIOXIDICLORIZIDE LEFT OVER FROM FILLING YOUR ORDER -- MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COVER MY EXPENSES.
BEYOND THAT, ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU KEEP IN MIND --
-- YOU OWE ME A FAVOR.
DONE.


SHORTLY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NO RESPONSE ?!
YOU SAID THAT --
I SAID IT MIGHT HELP HER, NOT THAT I WAS SURE.
THIS ISN'T LIKE SETTING A BONE, YOU KNOW. THERE'RE EXTENUATING PSYCHOLOGICAL COFACTORS INVOLVED.
YOU MEAN, LIKE MAYBE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO WAKE UP?
POSSIBLY. THERE MAY BE SOME DEEP TRAUMA SHE'S TRYING TO AVOID FACING.
THEN SOMEBODY'S GOT TO TAP IN AND DRAG HER OUT.
NOT A CHANCE. NEURAL INTERFACE WITH HER COULD END UP FRYING THE SENDER'S WETWARE.
THERE ISN'T A NEUROTECHNICIAN IN TOWN WHO'D TOUCH A CASE LIKE THIS.
I DON'T HAVE WETWARE.
SET IT UP, SANDOZ...
...I'M GOIN' IN.
NEXT
THE PERSISTENCE OF MEMORY

STRAIGHT FROM EVAN

We're getting plenty of great mail from you cyberfans, and the verdict is in: we've got ourselves a hit! Keep it coming, and let us know what you like about GR2099, what you don't, and what you want to see in the future!

And, as I mentioned last issue, those of you who regularly cruise the information highway might want to drop us an electronic line once in a while. Writer Len Kaminski is available on CompuServe at I.D. #74130.3464, and I'm currently on America Online as EvanSkol. You should also check out the AOL comics boards for postings regarding this title. See you in cyberspace, people!

To GHOST RIDER 2099,

After about eight years I have returned to collecting comics. In that time, I occupied my desire for action by watching movies about dark heroes and about a bleak future filled with anarchy, oppressive government, and rampant violence: movies like *Batman, They Live, Demolition Man, Total Recall,* and so on. I read a few comics in that time, such as *Marshal Law, Tank Girl, Baker Street,* and, occasionally, GHOST RIDER. When the release of *The Crow* — the movie depicting the dark comic book hero — was announced, I (being not only a Brandon Lee fan but also a fan of such dark heroes) was excited. I bought the soundtrack before the movie was even released simply for the fact that my favorite band, Nine Inch Nails, had a song on it.

Upon hearing the updated version of the song "Ghost Rider" by the Rollins Band, I waxed nostalgic, remembering Henry Rollins' original 1987 rendition from the *Hot Animal Machine* album. The song brought back memories of reading the original GHOST RIDER comic and the occasional issues I had read from the second incarnation of GR. I decided to go looking for some new GHOST RIDER comics to see if they still had that same feel that attracted my attention way back when. I saw a new comic called GHOST RIDER 2099, so I decided to check it out.

What I read both disappointed and enthralled me. I was disappointed that GR was no longer a demonic, magical entity; but I was enthralled by the character's new identity. He is a warbot inhabited by a human consciousness, in a crime-ridden world ruled by corporations rather than governments. Gangs battle in the streets, where anarchy exists. Gone are the silly super-powered villains of the last GHOST RIDER series. The new villains are cybernetically-enhanced gang members, cyberpunk hackers, the mega-corps, and the mega-corps lackey police forces (this last component is hauntingly familiar to a city in West Virginia which has a rent-a-cop police force called "React").

Ghost Rider 2099 is a serious, dark "hero" fighting serious, dark villains in a serious, dark world which we look to inherit in the real world in the next century. More importantly, this is the comic that brought me back to collecting.

James "Mad Dog" Nelson
315 West 17th Street
Belle, WV 25015

Glad to have you back, Mad Dog! As for The Crow, *well, you and GR2099 artist Kyle Hotz have something in common besides this series! Kyle has probably seen that movie more times than anyone else except for the director's mother!*

Hey Future Easy Writers,

I just read GHOST RIDER 2099 #3, and it was good. It is different from all of the other GHOST RIDER stories I've ever read, and I've been reading GR for most of my life. This new series has gotten off to a great start. Keep up the good work. But before I go, I just want to ask a few questions:

1) Will there be a VENGEANCE 2099 or a BLAZE 2099?

2) Why did Warewolf and Zeromon each think that the other was dead?

3) I missed issue #1 — how did Zeromon become GR 2099?

4) Is that hellfire on GR 2099's skull?

5) Could I have a poster of Ghost Rider 2099?

Anthony Tsuhaisa
17th ASG CM Unit 45013
P.O. Box 2774
Apo, AP 96338

Anthony, here are your answers:

1) Not without overwhelming fan requests (hint, hint).

2) Because they knew they had stolen something important, and because the Artificial Kidz had been hired to hunt them all down.

3) After being murdered, Zero was selected by the artificial entities living in the Ghostworks to have his consciousness downloaded into a super-warbot of their design.

4) No, there is no hellfire in, on, or around GHOST RIDER 2099. The flame around his head is a holographic display (as is the rest of his outfit).

5) Yes! It's in the works right now! (But, just so you're braced for this: you'll probably have to pay money for it.)

To Len,

I am so happy with GHOST RIDER 2099. When I got the first issue, I knew it would be very good. I like the "tech talk" a lot! It's a really good idea. You can imagine I was happy when you ran that glossary in issue #4.

I like Ghost Rider 2099 because he's a super hero but he still fights cops and has an attitude. He's also equipped with state-of-the-art technology — that's why I like him the most. Everything is great about him except that he's, well ... he's too strong for his enemies.

Warewolf and the Blackboots were too wimpy. He wiped both of them out easily. What Ghost Rider needs is enemies who are as strong and powerful as him, so they don't die like poor Warewolf. Why don't you have him fight someone at his own power level ... maybe like Hulk 2099?

Ray Illian
19804 4th Avenue S
Seattle, WA 98148

Maybe someday, Ray ... but first we gotta figure out who would win!

Dear Last Writes,

Yeah, that's my suggestion for the GHOST RIDER 2099 letters page title. The GR of 2099 is the best yet, as it combines high-tech *Terminator*-style action with cyberpunk head trips to yield a new kind of mysticism and a new twist on the Ghost Rider mythos. Although this incarnation of GR is a persona-programmed warbot, he's already more human than the Johnny Blaze and Dan Ketch versions. Those GRs were actually rather flat foils for their human hosts, who made the best of a situation they didn't want or even have a choice in (or at least they didn't fully understand what they were getting into).

In Zero Cochrane, you have given us a Ghost Rider who is driven by human motivations, which at times may be less noble than the ideals of avenging and protecting the innocent. For the first time, we can judge a GR on our own terms with no strings attached; no sympathy for the host's trapped existence and no demon to pardon because of its hell-spawned nature.

Here, there is no separation of the intentions, actions and therefore responsibilities of a demon-possessed man. Zero/GR are one and the same, with one mind. It's also refreshing to see a GR that doesn't have an immeasurable supply of supernatural energy; in fact, this one has to power up periodically, whereas the earlier GRs at most needed some down-time.

Of all the 2099 titles, I bet this one will rise to the top. In fact, once it catches on with the non-traditional GR crowd, it'll be even bigger than the regular GHOST RIDER! GR2099: the best sci-fi/high-tech/cyberpunk/super hero around. I can already see the movie!

Enzi Queeg
(Address withheld by request)

Actually, Enzi, Len Kaminski has stated that he envisioned the first five issues of GR2099 as Ghost Rider 2099: The Movie. Try reading all five in a row while eating popcorn and see if it works!

NEXT:

Ghost Rider 2099 must enter his ex-girlfriend Kylie's very mind to find out why she can't — or won't — wake up! But can Zero handle the awful truth?

MACHINE LANGUAGE

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